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USSR: Another segment of the Soviet ABM system probably has achieved operational capability.

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The Skrunda and Olenegorsk radars cover the northern attack corridors to European USSR and can track multiple targets for the Soviet ABM system. Some of the defensive missile launchers at Moscow will be finished next year, and the system is expected to be fully operational in 1971. Even then, its capability to defend against a sophisticated ballistic missile attack will be limited.

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Panama: Four of the eight parties in the government coalition seem likely to break away and form an electoral alliance with opposition leader Arnulfo Arias.

The four parties oppose President Robles' choice of Finance Minister David Samudio as head of the government ticket in the presidential election in May 1968.

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The hopes of the rebel parties that Minister of the Presidency Ramirez might emerge as a compromise candidate have been dashed by his losses to Samudio in the election of delegates to the Liberal Party's nominating convention. The prospect of an Arias victory, however, could yet force Robles to make a last-ditch attempt to salvage his ramshackle coalition by settling on another candidate.

The intense political maneuvering has forced the canal treaty issue into the background. Unless Robles can patch up his coalition, his administration will be so weakened that it will be unlikely to expend any major effort on the treaties during its final months in office.

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*Congo (Kinshasa): Congolese Army units and "mercenaries" engaged in battle last night at Kisenge on the Angolan-Katangan border, [redacted]

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[redacted] This possibly could be a first step of a mercenary "invasion" from Angola which has been rumored for some time.

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There have also been [redacted] encounters between Angolan nationalists and Portuguese authorities, during which the Portuguese have chased the rebels over the Congolese border. It is possible that another such clash took place and, given the Congolese' present nervous state of mind, observers assumed that the white men were mercenaries.

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[redacted]
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Afghanistan: The King yesterday appointed Nur Ahmad Etemadi as prime minister to succeed Mohammad Maiwandwal who resigned because of poor health. Etemadi is considered conservative and pro-West and unlikely to initiate any major shifts in Afghan foreign or domestic affairs.

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25X1. Egypt: Egypt's position on acceptable terms for
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recently. An article in the newspaper Al-Ahram. [redacted]

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[redacted] said the amended Indian UN draft resolution
was as far as Cairo would go toward finding a political
solution to the Middle East crisis. This may be in part
a tactical position, but the hardened stance probably re-
flects Cairo's pessimism on the chances of getting an
acceptable Middle East resolution. [redacted]

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*Ecuador: Student demonstrators in Guayaquil have
intensified their activities in an attempt to force the resig-
nation of Mayor Assad Bucaram. In the third day of vio-
lence there were several casualties and the headquarters
of Bucaram's political party was set afire. Army tanks
have been called into the city to protect the municipal
palace. The central government in Quito, seemingly in-
different to Bucaram's fate, has been reluctant to get in-
volved in the conflict but if the situation continues to de-
teriorate there could be serious repercussions for the
national government. [redacted]

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